

(At 12 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m., the President of the United States, escorted by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader, entered the Chamber through the south door at the right of the Speaker's rostrum, and joined the Speaker in the Well of the House. The Minority Leader, the Majority Leader, [and the Members] filed into the Well to greet the President personally.)

(At 1 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m., the President, accompanied by the committee of escort and the Speaker, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.)

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FASCELL) at 1 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.

§ 2. Receipt and Reading of Presidential Messages

In recent years, the President's annual state of the Union address has been delivered in person at a joint session of Congress, although the President may transmit the message in writing.⁽¹⁾ The President may choose to transmit messages dealing with other matters of national consequence to Congress in writing. Examples of messages the President has trans-

1. See §§ 3.3, 5.4, 5.5, *infra*. All Presidents from Thomas Jefferson through William H. Taft submitted their annual messages in writing.

mitted in writing have included: advising the House of his intention to abide by the law requiring a cessation of certain U.S. military operations,⁽²⁾ submitting reorganization plans,⁽³⁾ announcing a country's declaration of war against the United States,⁽⁴⁾ advising the House of the loss of an enrolled bill,⁽⁵⁾ and transmitting his nomination of a person for appointment to the office of Vice President.⁽⁶⁾

Messages may be received and read in the absence of a quorum.⁽⁷⁾

The Clerk of the House receives messages from the President delivered when the House is not in session. A message received by the Clerk is transmitted by the Clerk to the Speaker in the sealed envelope as received from the

2. 119 CONG. REC. 28088, 93d Cong. 1st Sess., Aug. 3, 1973.

3. 149 CONG. REC. 2305, 108th Cong. 1st Sess., Feb. 4, 2003; 93 CONG. REC. 4380-83, 80th Cong. 1st Sess., May 1, 1947; 86 CONG. REC. 6637, 76th Cong. 3d Sess., May 22, 1940.

4. 88 CONG. REC. 4787, 77th Cong. 2d Sess., June 2, 1942; 87 CONG. REC. 9665, 9666, 77th Cong. 1st Sess., Dec. 11, 1941.

5. See § 2.13, *infra*.

6. See § 3.18, *infra*.

7. Until the 95th Congress, a quorum was required for the reading of a message. *House Rules and Manual* § 55 (2007). See also § 2.11, *infra*.

President together with a cover letter indicating the time and place of receipt, as well as the nature of the message, if this has been indicated to the Clerk. The Speaker lays the message before the House as soon as feasible.⁽⁸⁾

Laying Message Before the House

§ 2.1 Messages from the President are laid before the House by the Speaker.

On June 17, 1969,⁽¹⁾ Speaker John W. McCormack, of Massachusetts, laid before the House a message from the President, transmitting the President's annual report on salary comparability, and then his own directive implementing certain salary adjustments in the House.

The President's message was read and, together with accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I forward herewith the annual comparison of Federal salaries with the salaries paid in private enterprise, as provided by section 5302 of title 5, United States Code. . . .

RICHARD NIXON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 16, 1969.*

8. See §§ 2.6–2.9, *infra*.

1. 115 CONG. REC. 16195, 16196, 91st Cong. 1st Sess.

DIRECTIVE OF THE SPEAKER IMPLEMENTING SALARY COMPARABILITY POLICY IN 1969 FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following directive, which was read: . . .

Pursuant to the authority and duty vested in the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives by section 212 of the Federal Salary Act of 1967 (81 Stat. 634; Public Law 90–206; 5 U.S.C. 5304, note) to implement the salary comparability policy set forth in section 5301 of title 5, United States Code, in the year 1969 for personnel of the House of Representatives, the rates of pay of personnel of the House of Representatives whose pay is disbursed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives are adjusted as follows: . . .

§ 2.2 A Presidential communication addressed to the Speaker urging support for a legislative measure pending before the House is sometimes laid before the House and read but not referred to any committee.

On Feb. 25, 1975,⁽¹⁾ a letter from President Gerald R. Ford,

1. 121 CONG. REC. 4151, 94th Cong. 1st Sess. For examples of executive communications treated by the Speaker as Presidential messages, see § 1.3, *supra*.

sent to the Speaker, was laid before the House for the information of Members.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the President of the United States:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, February 25, 1975.

Hon. CARL ALBERT
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I wish to convey to the House of Representatives my deep concern over the present critical situation in Cambodia. . . .

. . . Countries around the world who depend on us for support—as well as their foes—will judge our performance. It is in this spirit and with this sense of responsibility Mr. Speaker, that I urge rapid and favorable action on my request for additional assistance to Cambodia.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD.

Practice in Committee of the Whole

§ 2.3 A message from the President is not received while the House is sitting as the Committee of the Whole, but the Committee may rise informally so that the House may receive the message; when it does so, the Chairman of the Committee does not report to the House but merely relinquishes the

Chair to the Speaker, who recognizes the messenger of the President, receives the message, and then directs the Committee to resume its sitting.

On June 17, 1969,⁽¹⁾ a message in writing from the President was communicated to the House by one of his secretaries while the House was in the Committee of the Whole. The proceedings were as follows:

The CHAIRMAN.⁽²⁾ The Committee will rise informally in order that the House may receive a message.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER assumed the chair.

The SPEAKER.⁽³⁾ The Chair will receive a message.⁽⁴⁾

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Leonard,

1. 115 CONG. REC. 16182, 91st Cong. 1st Sess.
2. Jack B. Brooks (Tex.)
3. John W. McCormack (Mass.).
4. The Speaker will not, however, receive a message from the President when occupying the Chair to receive the report of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole. See, *e.g.*, 115 CONG. REC. 9705, 91st Cong. 1st Sess., Apr. 21, 1969.

one of his secretaries, who also informed the House that on June 13, 1969 the President approved and signed bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2718. An act to extend for an additional temporary period the existing suspension of duties on certain classifications of yarn of silk[.]

Following receipt of the message, the Committee of the Whole resumed its sitting by direction of the Speaker.

Messages Received Pending a Vote

§ 2.4 Messages from the President may be received notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, and the Speaker does not direct the reading of the message pending the vote on a matter.

On Mar. 24, 1949,⁽¹⁾ the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of a bill. After some debate, the Committee rose. A motion to recommit was offered, and the previous question was ordered thereon. At this point a message in writing from the President was communicated to the House together with other information. A parliamentary inquiry was pro-

1. 95 CONG. REC. 3114, 3115, 81st Cong. 1st Sess.

pounded as to the disposition of the Presidential message and whether it bore on the subject at hand. The Chair indicated that the business then before the House should be completed before taking up the message.⁽²⁾

The proceedings were as follows:

Mr. [John E.] RANKIN [of Mississippi]. Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the motion to recommit.

The previous question was ordered.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by one of his secretaries, who also informed the House that on March 24, 1949, the President approved and signed a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 89. Joint resolution providing for the filling of a vacancy in the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, of the class other than Members of Congress.

PENSIONS FOR VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II

Mr. [Francis H.] CASE [of South Dakota]. Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽³⁾ The gentleman will state it.

2. For a review of the practice during the 18th and 19th centuries, when Presidential messages often lay unread for lengthy periods of time, see 5 Hinds' Precedents §§ 6635-6649.
3. John W. McCormack (Mass.).

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, would the Chair be in position to state whether the communication from the President just received bears upon the pending matter?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. At this point the Chair would not say.

The question is on the motion to recommit offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. TEAGUE].

Following an announcement of the results of the vote on the motion, the Speaker laid before the House the message from the President; it was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The message from the President was as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

In compliance with the provisions of section 10 (b) (4) of the Railroad Retirement Act, approved June 24, 1937, and of section 12 (1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, approved June 25, 1938, I transmit herewith for the information of the Congress the report of the Railroad Retirement Board for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1948.

HARRY S. TRUMAN.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 24, 1949.*

Authorizing Clerk to Receive Messages During Adjournments

§ 2.5 Before such authority was specifically granted by rule, most concurrent resolu-

tions providing for an adjournment *sine die*, or for an adjournment to a day certain more than three days hence, contained language specifically stating that the Clerk of the House was authorized to receive messages from the President during the adjournment (with similar authority generally also provided by the Senate for the Secretary of the Senate) and, if not included in the adjournment resolution, such specific authority generally was obtained in each House by unanimous consent.

Rule II clause 2 now authorizes the Clerk to receive messages from the President when the House is not in session.⁽¹⁾

As an example of the standard type of concurrent resolution of adjournment that made clear the Clerk's authority to receive messages from the President during a period of adjournment, the proceedings of Dec. 15, 1977,⁽²⁾ are shown here:

Mr. [James C.] WRIGHT [Jr., of Texas]. Mr. Speaker, I send to the Speaker's desk a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 442) authorizing the Secretary of the Senate and

1. *House Rules and Manual* § 652 (2009).
2. 123 CONG. REC. 38948, 95th Cong. 1st Sess.

the Clerk of the House to receive messages, including veto messages, from the President of the United States during adjournment of the two Houses.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 442

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the two Houses adjourn on Thursday, December 15, 1977, they shall stand adjourned sine die.

SEC. 2. During the adjournment of both Houses of Congress as provided in section 1, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, respectively be, and they hereby are, authorized to receive messages, including veto messages, from the President of the United States.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

Alternatively, such authority sometimes was clarified by unanimous consent, as the proceedings of Nov. 21, 1980,⁽³⁾ illustrate:

Mr. [Paul] SIMON [of Illinois]. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Monday, December 1, 1980, the Clerk be authorized to receive messages from the President and the Senate and that the Speaker be authorized to sign any enrolled bills and joint resolutions duly passed by the two Houses and found truly enrolled.

The SPEAKER.⁽⁴⁾ Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

3. 126 CONG. REC. 30555, 96th Cong. 2d Sess.

4. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. (Mass.).

There was no objection.

Parliamentarian's Note: This type of request became standard practice after the decision in *Kennedy v Sampson* in 1974.⁽⁵⁾ In that case, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit held that a bill could not be pocket-vetoed by the President during an adjournment of more than three days to a day certain if the House of origin had made arrangements for the receipt of Presidential messages.⁽⁶⁾

Messages Received During Adjournment

§ 2.6 The Clerk, as the agent of the House, is authorized to receive messages from the President while the House is in recess or after the House has adjourned for a legislative day; when such a message is received, it is transmitted by the Clerk to the Speaker (with a cover letter detailing the time and place of receipt of the message), who then lays it before the House at the earliest opportunity.

5. 511 F.2d 430 (D.C. Cir.).

6. For further discussion, refer to Ch. 24 § 17, *supra*, and *House Rules and Manual* § 113 (2007).

On Feb. 20, 1969,⁽¹⁾ the Speaker⁽²⁾ laid before the House a letter from the Clerk, advising that the Clerk had, after the House adjourned the previous evening, received a message from the President. The proceedings were as follows:

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

The Honorable the SPEAKER,
U.S. House of Representatives.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a sealed envelope addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, said to contain a message from the President wherein he transmits a special study regarding the administration of the Headstart program. This envelope was received in the Office of the Clerk at 3:55 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 1969.

Sincerely,

PAT JENNINGS,
Clerk.

The Speaker then laid before the House the message from the President, which was read and referred to the appropriate committee.

§ 2.7 The Clerk notifies the Speaker when he has, during an adjournment, received a message from the President addressed to the House or to

1. 115 CONG. REC. 4088, 91st Cong. 1st Sess.
2. John W. McCormack (Mass.).

the Speaker, and the Speaker lays the notification and message before the House when the House reconvenes. If the Clerk is in possession of such knowledge, he notifies the Speaker of the contents of the message.

On Sept. 5, 1945,⁽¹⁾ the House having ended its August recess, the Speaker⁽²⁾ laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk:

SEPTEMBER 5, 1945.

The SPEAKER,
The House of Representatives.

SIR: The accompanying sealed envelope from the White House addressed to the House of Representatives, was received in this office at 11:30 o'clock antemeridian, August 30, 1945.

Respectfully yours,

SOUTH TRIMBLE,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States, which was read, and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed with illustrations:

To the Congress of the United States of America:

I am transmitting herewith the twentieth report of operations under

1. 91 CONG. REC. 8322, 79th Cong. 1st Sess.
2. Sam Rayburn (Tex.).

the Lend-Lease Act for the period ending June 3, 1945. . . .

HARRY S. TRUMAN.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *August 30, 1945.*

§ 2.8 A veto message from the President addressed to the Speaker and received in the office of the Clerk after adjournment of the House is laid before the House when it reconvenes.

On Apr. 6, 1948,⁽¹⁾ the Speaker pro tempore⁽²⁾ laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk:

APRIL 6, 1948.

The honorable the SPEAKER
House of Representatives.

SIR: The attached sealed envelope, indicating on its face that it contains a message from the President of the United States, and addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, was received in the office of the Clerk on April 5, 1948.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN ANDREWS,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

VENDORS OF NEWSPAPERS OR MAGAZINES—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 594)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following veto mes-

1. 94 CONG. REC. 4133, 4134, 80th Cong. 2d Sess.
2. Earl C. Michener (Mich.).

sage from the President of the United States:

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, H.R. 5052, a bill to exclude certain vendors of newspapers or magazines from certain provisions of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code.

This bill is identical with H.R. 3997, which I declined to approve in August 1947. . . .

For these reasons, I am compelled to return H.R. 5052 without my approval.

HARRY S. TRUMAN.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 5, 1948.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal, and the message and the bill will be printed as a House document.⁽³⁾

§ 2.9 The President's economic report was received by the Clerk on a day when the House was not in session; the report remained in its sealed envelope until laid before the House at its next meeting.

On Jan. 22, 1962,⁽¹⁾ Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, laid before the House a letter from the Clerk transmitting a communication from the President of the United States that was received

3. For discussion of House consideration of veto messages, see Ch. 24, §§ 17–23, *supra*.

1. 108 Cong. Rec. 577–584, 87th Cong. 2d Sess.

by the Clerk when the House was not in session:

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

JANUARY 22, 1962.

The Honorable the SPEAKER,
House of Representatives.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a sealed envelope addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives from the President of the United States, received in the Clerk's office at 1:15 p.m. on January 20, 1962, and said to contain the Economic Report of the President together with the annual report of the council of Economic Advisers.

Respectfully yours,

RALPH R. ROBERTS,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE
PRESIDENT (H. DOC. NO. 278)

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States, which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed with illustrations:

To the Congress of the United States:

I report to you under the provisions of the Employment Act of 1946[.] . . .

JOHN F. KENNEDY

Parliamentarian's Note: The economic report of the President was, under former provisions of 15

USC § 1022, to be transmitted to Congress "not later than Jan. 20 of each year."⁽²⁾ Jan. 20, 1962, fell on a Saturday—a day when the House would not be in session because it had adjourned on Thursday, Jan. 18, until Monday, Jan. 22. The Clerk received the report for the House on Jan. 20. It remained sealed until laid before the House on Jan. 22, thereby insuring that there would be no premature disclosure or release of the report.

Interrupting Reading of Message

§ 2.10 The Chair declines to recognize Members to submit parliamentary inquiries during the reading of the President's message.

On Jan. 21, 1946,⁽¹⁾ the Speaker pro tempore⁽²⁾ laid before the House a message from the President.

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by . . . one of his secretaries. . . .

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the message of the

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2. 15 USC § 1022 now requires this report "not later than 10 days after the submission of the budget under section 1105(a) of title 31."
 1. 92 CONG. REC. 164, 79th Cong. 2d Sess.
 2. John W. McCormack (Mass.).

President on the state of the Union and transmitting the Budget. . . .

Mr. [Robert F.] RICH [of Pennsylvania] (interrupting the reading of the message). Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk read a message from the President of the United States, and the Chair feels that an inquiry at this time should not be entertained.⁽³⁾

Parliamentarian's Note: This message contained approximately 25,000 words and took about three hours to read.

§ 2.11 Under the earlier practice (before the 95th Congress), quorum calls could interrupt the reading of the President's message to Congress on the state of the Union.

On Jan. 21, 1946,⁽¹⁾ Speaker pro tempore John W. McCormack, of Massachusetts, laid before the House the message of the President on the state of the Union and transmitting the budget. The reading of this lengthy message was interrupted by two quorum calls.⁽²⁾ The proceedings were as follows:

3. Portions of a Presidential message may be reread by the Clerk by unanimous consent. See 113 CONG. REC. 22447, 22448, 90th Cong. 1st Sess., Aug. 14, 1967.
1. 92 CONG. REC. 164, 165, 79th Cong. 2d Sess.
2. For the text of this message, see *Id.* at pp. 136–155 [Senate proceedings].

Mr. [Robert F.] RICH [of Pennsylvania]. Mr. Speaker, I think it is wise that the membership of the House hear the President's message, and I make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

Mr. [Albert A.] GORE [of Tennessee]. Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

A call of the House was ordered.

The Clerk called the roll. . . .

The SPEAKER pro tempore. . . . [A] quorum is present.

By unanimous consent, further proceedings under the call were dispensed with.

The Clerk resumed the reading of the President's message.

Mr. RICH (interrupting the reading of the President's message). Mr. Speaker, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

Mr. [Adolph J.] SABATH [of Illinois]. Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

A call of the House was ordered.

The Clerk called the roll. . . .

The SPEAKER pro tempore. . . . [A] quorum [is present].

By unanimous consent, further proceedings under the call were dispensed with.

The Clerk concluded the reading of the President's message.

Parliamentarian's Note: Rule XX clause 7(a), adopted in the 93d Congress and amended in the 95th Congress, prohibits the Speaker from recognizing a Member for a point of order that a

quorum is not present unless a question is being put, although under clause 7(b), the Speaker has the discretion to recognize a Member to move a call of the House.⁽³⁾

Effect on Former Discharge Procedure

§ 2.12 The reading of a message from the President did not prevent the subsequent operation of the so-called 21-day rule (former Rule XI, clause (2)(c)), which was repealed in the 90th Congress.

On Jan. 23, 1950,⁽¹⁾ Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, laid before the House a message from the President, and the following ensued:

The SPEAKER. The Chair lays before the House a message from the President of the United States, which the Clerk will read.

Mr. [Vito] MARCANTONIO [of New York]. Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state the point of order.

Mr. MARCANTONIO. Mr. Speaker, will the reading of the President's message prevent the operation of the discharge rule today?

The SPEAKER. Not at all.⁽²⁾

3. *House Rules and Manual* §§1027, 1028 (2007).

1. 96 CONG. REC. 769, 81st Cong. 2d Sess.

2. For the 21-day discharge rule, its history and effect, see Ch. 21, § 18.52, *supra*.

Message Relating to Lost Bill

§ 2.13 Where the President sent a message to the House advising it that an enrolled bill delivered to him had been lost, the Speaker and Vice President were authorized by concurrent resolution to sign a duplicate copy, which was transmitted to the President by the Clerk.

On May 15, 1935,⁽¹⁾ after letters from the President and Secretary of the Interior were read, advising of the loss of an enrolled bill, procedures were adopted by which a duplicate bill could be sent to the President. The letters were laid before the House by the Speaker⁽²⁾ and referred to the Committee on the Territories. The proceedings were as follows:

To the House of Representatives,

I am in receipt of the following letter from the Secretary of the Interior advising of the loss of enrolled bill H.R. 6084, authorizing a bond issue for the town of Ketchikan, Alaska:

I regret to report the loss of enrolled bill H.R. 6084, authorizing a bond issue of Ketchikan, Alaska, which was delivered to my office on May 3 by a messenger from the White House. . . . I recommend that you ask the Congress to authorize the preparation of a duplicate.

1. 79 CONG. REC. 7598, 7633, 74th Cong. 1st Sess.

2. Joseph W. Byrns (Tenn.).

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES & EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS **Ch. 35 § 2**

The last approval day is tomorrow, May 15.

In the circumstances, I recommend that a duplicate bill be authorized by concurrent resolution.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 15, 1935.

Mr. [Anthony U.] DIMOND [of Alaska]. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read as follows:

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate be, and they are hereby, authorized to sign a duplicate copy of the enrolled bill H.R. 6084, entitled "An act to authorize the city of Ketchikan, Alaska, to issue bonds in any sum not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring the electric light and power, water, and telephone properties of the Citizens' Light, Power & Water Co., and to finance and operate the same, and validating the preliminary proceedings with respect thereto, and for other purposes", and that the Clerk of the House be directed to transmit the same to the President of the United States.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

Mr. [Bertrand H.] SNELL [of New York]. Reserving the right to object, what department was this lost in?

Mr. DIMOND. According to the letter, it was lost in the Department of the Interior.

After the resolution was agreed to by the House and the Senate,⁽³⁾ the following communication was laid before the House:

MAY 15, 1935.

The SPEAKER,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Pursuant to the provisions of House Concurrent Resolution 21, Seventy-fourth Congress, I have this day presented to the President of the United States the signed duplicate copy of the enrolled bill, H.R. 6084, entitled "An act to authorize the city of Ketchikan, Alaska, to issue bonds in any sum not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring the electric light and power, water, and telephone properties of the Citizens' Light, Power & Water Co., and to finance and operate the same, and validating the preliminary proceedings with respect thereto, and for other purposes."

Very truly yours,

SOUTH TRIMBLE,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

By H. NEWLIN MEGILL.

Presidential Request to Address the House

§ 2.14 Consistent with the doctrine of separation of powers and the precedents of the House, the Speaker has declined a request of the President to address the House in

3. Senate agreement to H. Con. Res. 21, see 79 CONG. REC. 7551, 74th Cong. 1st Sess., May 15, 1935.

actual session on legislation upon which the House was about to vote, the traditional alternative of a joint session being available to the President.

On June 24, 1986,⁽¹⁾ Rep. Charles Roemer, of Louisiana, took the floor in debate to defend the Speaker's decision not to invite President Ronald W. Reagan to address the House, in session, prior to a vote on a legislative issue.

The President's views were then addressed to the Speaker in a communication, which was laid before the House and read, before the floor action on the issue.⁽²⁾

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN NICARAGUA (H. Doc. No. 99-237)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. [GEORGE P.] MILLER of California) laid before the House the following communication from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations, the Com-

1. 132 CONG. REC. 15184, 99th Cong. 2d Sess. For instances of informal visits by the President to Congress, see § 1.10, *supra*.
2. *Id.* at p 15186.

mittee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and ordered to be printed:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, June 24, 1986.

The Honorable THOMAS P. O'NEILL, Jr.,

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am transmitting in writing my remarks that I had hoped to deliver to members of the House of Representatives today. It was my desire to speak directly to the members of the House of Representatives to emphasize the importance of achieving a bipartisan approach to address the urgent question of providing assistance to the freedom fighters in Nicaragua. . . .

THE OVAL OFFICE,
June 24, 1986.

My fellow citizens. The matter that brings me before you today is a grave one and concerns my most solemn duty as President. It is the cause of freedom in Central America and the national security of the United States. Tomorrow the House of Representatives will debate and vote on this issue. I had hoped to speak directly and at this very hour to Members of the House of Representatives on this subject, but was unable to do so. Because I feel so strongly about what I have to say, I have asked for this time to share with you—and members of the House—the message I would have otherwise given.

Parliamentarian's Note: In recognition of the doctrine of separation of powers, the Speaker had

suggested that the Congress, by concurrent resolution, invite the President to address the two Houses in joint session “for the purpose of receiving any communication he might be pleased to make.” The President refused the invitation. See also the proceedings of Nov. 13, 1969, where President Richard M. Nixon addressed the House, but not on pending legislation.⁽³⁾

§ 3. Referral

Rule XIV clause 2 provides that Presidential messages are to be referred to the appropriate committees without debate.⁽¹⁾ Accordingly, the referral of a Presidential message to the committee having jurisdiction is usually made by order of the Speaker without debate and without motion from the floor. However, a Presidential message may be referred by the House itself on motion.⁽²⁾ A motion by a Member to make such a referral is privileged.

3. 115 CONG. REC. 34080, 34081, 91st Cong. 1st Sess. President Nixon’s visit was for the stated purpose of thanking Members who had sponsored a resolution calling for a just peace in Vietnam.

1. See *House Rules and Manual* § 873 (2007).

2. 8 Cannon’s Precedents § 3348.

Such a referral may be to a select committee as well as to a standing committee.⁽³⁾

A Presidential message may be divided for referral to more than one committee.⁽⁴⁾

Under Rule XII clause 8, estimates of appropriations and other communications from executive departments are referred by the Speaker as provided in Rule XIV clause 2.

Timing of Referral

§ 3.1 Although the Chair lays before the House a message from the President on the day received, the House on occasion, by unanimous consent, has directed that the referral of the message be postponed until a later day.

On Feb. 3, 1986,⁽¹⁾ the referral of a comprehensive message submitted by the President under the provisions of a budget law was postponed until the next day by unanimous consent so that the

3. *House Rules and Manual* § 875 (2007).

4. 8 Cannon’s Precedents §§ 3348, 3349.

1. 132 CONG. REC. 1347, 99th Cong. 2d Sess. For the principle that the Chair lays a message before the House on the day received, see § 1.1, *supra*.